

RESOLUTIONS

OF

THE LEGISLATURE OF LOUISIANA,

*In relation to the school lands in that State.*

FEBRUARY 2, 1848.

Read, referred to the Committee on Public Lands, and ordered to be printed.

RESOLUTIONS requesting our Senators and Representatives in Congress to pass a law in relation to the sixteenth section school lands.

Whereas a large proportion of the school lands granted to the State of Louisiana, under the existing laws of Congress, are overflowed, totally worthless, and unfit for cultivation; and whereas, by the operation of the surveying laws of the United States, directing the lands situated on bayous and navigable waters in this State to be surveyed in radiating lots or sections containing less than the quantity of six hundred and forty acres, at the option of the surveyor general, thus departing from the uniform principles which govern the surveyors in other States, whereby this State, particularly in the southern portion thereof, does not receive the quantity of six hundred and forty acres for each full township, and the beneficent objects and intentions of Congress in granting that quantity for the support of common schools is thus defeated:

And whereas, on account of interference of confirmed private claims, and similar causes, the section numbered sixteen in the township is frequently otherwise legally appropriated or disposed of: Therefore,

1. *Be it resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the State of Louisiana in General Assembly convened,* That the Senators and Representatives from this State in the Congress of the United States be, and they are hereby, requested to take such steps as may be necessary to procure the passage of a law of Congress, at its present session, with such provisions as will give to the State of Louisiana the quantity of six hundred and forty acres of school land fit for cultivation, for each full township (parts of townships in the same proportion) within said State, by authorizing the governor, or any properly authorized agent, to select lands in lieu of all overflowed or worthless sections sixteen, or in lieu of those sections sixteen legally appropriated for other purposes, or where any legal interference whatever may exist, and in lieu of any deficiency in the contents thereof, to be taken from any lands within the State not sold or otherwise appropriated, and which are subject to entry at the date of such selection.

2. *Be it further resolved, &c.*, That said Senators and Representatives be, and they are hereby, requested to procure the insertion of a provision in said act of Congress, authorizing this State to make a common fund of all the school lands which shall be thus selected, or which shall have accrued to the State in virtue of existing laws, to be expended as the authorities of this State may direct, without reference to the particular township in which the lands shall be situated.

3. *Be it further resolved, &c.*, That a copy of this preamble and these resolutions be immediately forwarded by the governor to each Senator and Representative from this State in the Congress of the United States.

PRESTON W. FARRAR,

*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

FELIX GARCIA,

*President pro tem. of the Senate.*

Approved May 4, 1847.

ISAAC JOHNSON,

*Governor of the State of Louisiana.*